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Jean Calvin: les Hommes et les Choses de son Temps. Par EMILE DOUMERGUE, Professeur à la Faculté de Théologie de Montauban. Tome III., *La ville, la maison et la rue de Calvin.* (Lausanne: Georges Bridel et Cie. 1905. Pp. ix, 722.)

PROFESSOR DOUMERGUE's third volume bears the entirely deserved mention: "Ouvrage couronné par l'Académie française (Prix Guizot)". It is devoted to the town of Geneva, the Geneva of the sixteenth century, out of which Calvin's genius made the bulwark of French Reformation, the first of Puritan states and, in the world of thought, the metropolis of a new, far-reaching Commonwealth.

That town of Geneva began to disappear outwardly, some fifty years ago, when its old ramparts, its gray stony towers, were levelled down by a nineteenth-century government, which thought it advisable to make a clean sweep of everything of the past, and the work of destruction has gone very fast during the last decades under the combined influences of time and architects. To revive the same it really needed the pen of an artist and a scholar like Doumergue, lifted over insuperable difficulties by a powerful, never-failing enthusiasm. For achieving such a task he is entitled to the grateful acknowledgment, not only of the Genevese, but of the students of history everywhere.

The present volume, lavishly illustrated like the others, contains, in quotations of documents, in reproductions of old engravings of scenes, interiors, costumes, even in the reconstruction of perspectives and sites, all that can possibly be placed under the eyes of an inquirer. The whole is worked up with a skill, a mastery of details, a richness of style which I have no more to introduce to the readers of the AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW. To quote an instance of the fullness of information which will be found, I only refer to the chapter, in three parts, entitled: "Calvin's income." No less than a complete essay in economics, concerning especially the relation of prices and values in the middle of the sixteenth century, is here before us. It has enabled the writer to refute victoriously the gross exaggerations, the calumnies, which from Bolsec down to J.-B.-G. Galiffe and even Kampschulte, who did not take sufficient care to scrutinize Galiffe's aspersions on that point, have totally obscured the subject. It is now at last a settled matter. Far from drawing from the town a fat prebend, as was said and repeated, the intellectual ruler of Geneva lived and died, if not in poverty, at any rate in the straitened circumstances which were then the city's own.

This book is at the same time a study in archaeology and in biography. After having shown his readers through Calvin's house, which he had to rebuild for the occasion on documentary evidence, the author gives an impressive and exact account of the reformer's daily life, of his stupendous, never-ceasing work, of the bodily sufferings which made the latter part of his life akin to martyrdom. After having paid his debt to Calvin, he undertakes to give us biographic studies of every one

of Calvin's familiars. The chapters on his relatives, on his friends and especially on his secretaries, Nicholas des Gallars, Jean Budé, Charles de Jonvilliers, Raguener, etc., are precious, being based on information more complete than any note of previous biographers.

Concerning the reformer himself, Professor Doumergue has honored me with a special chapter answering my last criticism in this REVIEW. We disagree on a question of chronology and of measure as to the part to be attributed to heart-impulses in Calvin's conduct. My learned colleague is bent on making that part a leading one in his hero's public life and even his theology. To the numerous quotations he had gathered from the correspondence of his youth he now adds some new ones from letters of the Genevan epoch to and from his friends and insists upon the devoted feelings he inspired in them up to his last days. I never doubted that Calvin remained sympathetic to his friends, even in those troubled times to which I had to refer. I spoke of historians, who are by duty neither friends nor foes, and who have to judge on facts as well as on formulae. But I do not wish to impose to-day on my American readers the continuation of a controversy which nevertheless will have to be pursued later, when the monumental work of Professor Doumergue receives its last crowning volume, which will bear the announced, promising title: "Struggle and Triumph."

For the present I ought to be contented with quoting the following extracts from the excellent chapter: "Calvin at home" (p. 548), which proves beyond dispute how much the author has progressed in his knowledge of Calvinian psychology by studying him, with the help of luminous medical advice, on the spot:

"Nous constatons cette chose simple, naturelle, nécessaire, à savoir
 "que Calvin a eu le caractère exigé par sa situation exceptionnelle.
 "Certes, pas plus ici qu'ailleurs, nous ne contestons les défauts de
 "Calvin, ni ce côté, cette face de son caractère, qui est l'austérité, la
 "sévérité. Même nous reconnaissons qu'il était nerveux, irritable, très
 "irritable, et que cette irritabilité naturelle était sans cesse augmentée par
 "l'énervement de la maladie, et par l'énervement plus agaçant encore
 "d'une opposition souvent méchante. Nous ne contestons pas davantage
 "qu'un homme de cette énergie, de cette volonté, de cette clarté de con-
 "ception, de cette confiance en la vérité, telle qu'il la concevait, n'ait eu
 "un penchant très naturel à exercer la domination dont il était capable,
 "qui lui était offerte par les circonstances, et qui était indispensable au
 "succès de sa mission et de son œuvre. Mais toutes ces restrictions
 "faites, il n'en reste pas moins que ce qui est incontestable dans le carac-
 "tère de Calvin, c'est la séduction, l'attrait."

CHARLES BORGEAUD.